

Message Text

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43

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-06 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /024 W

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R 070903Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1286

UNCLAS MANILA 15665

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ECON, EPAP, RP, US

SUBJ: SENATOR GRAVEL CALLS ON PRESIDENT MARCOS

REF: MANILA 15095

1. BULLETIN TODAY OCTOBER 7 CARRIED FRONT PAGE PHOTOGRAPH OF SENATOR MIKE GRAVEL CALLING ON PRESIDENT MARCOS AND THE FOLLOWING ARTICLE WHICH IS REPEATED IN FULL:

QTE SENATOR MIKE GRAVEL, SENIOR MEMBER OF THE POWERFUL U.S. SENATE FINANCE COMMITTEE, TOLD PRESIDENT MARCOS HE WOULD END DISCRIMINATION AGAINST PHILIPPINE SUGAR, COCONUT OIL AND MAHOGANY.

2. THE SENATOR, WHO IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF THE WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE, SAID HE LEARNED ABOUT THE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST THESE PHILIPPINE EXPORTS TO THE U.S. ONLY THE OTHER DAY.

3. "I WILL SEE TO IT THAT TTHAT IS CORRECTED", HE PROMISED THE PRESIDENT.

4. GRAVEL SAID HE REFERRED PARTICULARLY TO THE RECENT IMPOSITION OF TARIFF ON SUGAR WHICH, "BY ACCIDENT," WORKS AGAINST PHILIPPINE SUGAR.

5. A SPECIFIC PROVISION GIVES SPECIAL PREFERENCE IN THE IMPOSITION OF TARIFF TO LESS DEVELOPED COUNTRIES, EXCEPT WHERE SUCH COUNTRIES PRODUCE MORE THAN \$25 MILLION WORTH OF SUGAR.

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6. GRAVEL SAID THAT THIS CUT-OFF WORKS AGAINST THE

PHILIPPINES, WHICH PRODUCES MUCH MORE THAN 25 MILLION PESOS WORTH.

7. HE SAID HE BELIEVED THAT BOTH THE WHITE HOUSE AND CONGRESS WOULD REALIZE THE DISCRIMINATION AND REMOVE IT, "BECAUSE U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE PHILIPPINES ARE VERY IMPORTANT."

8. HE SAID: "THIS IS A CLASSIC EXAMPLE OF AN ACCIDENT AND IF ANY LEGISLATION IS NECESSARY COME JANUARY 1, I WILL BE THE ONE TO PUSH IT." END QUOTE.
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Disposition Event:
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